



The Arabian Nights

1. How would you categorize these stories: moral tales, fables, fantasies, adventure, or a mix of these? What aspects of these stories most interest you: the human or the supernatural?
2. What role do women play in these stories? Does anything about their roles surprise you?
3. What is the significance of Shahrazad's role as narrator, and how does she compare with the women in the stories?
4. Do you sympathize with King Shahrayar's outrage over his wife's infidelity? Do you think it justifies his madness? Does the story accept or question the King's absolute power?
5. What is the role of chance in the stories? To what extent do the human characters determine their own destiny?
6. *The Arabian Nights* is known for its distinctive literary structure of stories within stories. Do you think this narrative style is effective? How do the stories relate to one another? Do they enhance or oppose each other?